

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A reactor for producing a high molecular weight polyester, comprising:

(a) a substantially horizontal cylindrical vessel provided with an inlet at a lower part at one end thereof and with an outlet at the lower part at the other end thereof for a liquid feed, and with an outlet for volatile matters at the upper part thereof,

(b) a stirring rotor provided with support members, having a disk shape, at both ends of the stirring rotor, connecting support rods between the support members and a plurality of hollow disks in the longitudinal direction thereof within the cylindrical vessel, the stirring rotor being without any rotating shaft at a position of a rotating center axis, and having an outer diameter which is equal to the outer diameter of said hollow disks, and

wherein the ~~reactor~~ stirring rotor is further provided with scraping plates each between adjacent hollow disks, for scraping the liquid feed attached to the inside wall of the vessel, ~~the stirring rotor being without any rotating shaft at the position of a rotating center axis, provided with a support member at an end of the outlet side thereof, the outer diameter of the support member at the outlet side thereof for a liquid feed~~ being smaller than the outer diameter of the stirring rotor, and provided with scraping vanes on the support member on the vessel inner end wall-facing side

of the outlet side thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A reactor for producing a high molecular weight polyester, comprising:

(a) a substantially horizontal cylindrical vessel provided with an inlet at the lower part at one end thereof and an outlet at the lower part at the other end thereof for a liquid feed, and with an outlet for volatile matters at the upper part thereof,

(b) a stirring rotor ~~having an outer diameter and~~ provided with a support member having a disk shape at one end of the stirring rotor and another support member having a disk shape at the other end thereof, ~~and~~ with a plurality of hollow disks in the longitudinal direction thereof within the cylindrical vessel, and having an outer diameter which is equal to the outer diameter of said hollow disks, and

wherein the ~~reactor~~ stirring rotor is further provided with scraping plates each between adjacent hollow disks, for scraping the liquid feed attached to the inside wall of the vessel, the stirring rotor being without any rotating shaft at the position of a rotating center axis, wherein the outer diameter of the another support member, positioned at a side adjacent the outlet at the lower part at the other end of the cylindrical vessel, is smaller than the outer diameter of the stirring rotor, and wherein the ~~reactor~~ stirring rotor is provided with scraping vanes on the another support member ~~at the one end of the stirring rotor~~, on the vessel inner end wall-facing side.

3.-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A reactor for producing a high molecular weight polyester, comprising:

(a) a substantially horizontal cylindrical vessel provided with an inlet at the lower part at one end thereof and an outlet at the lower part at the other end thereof for a liquid feed, and with an outlet for volatile matters at the upper part thereof,

(b) a stirring rotor ~~having an outer diameter and~~ provided with a support member having a disk shape at one end of the stirring rotor and another support member having a disk shape at the other end thereof, and with a plurality of hollow disks in the longitudinal direction thereof within the cylindrical vessel, having an outer diameter which is equal to the outer diameter of said hollow disks, and

wherein the ~~reactor-stirring rotor~~ is further provided with scraping plates each between adjacent hollow disks, for scraping the liquid feed attached to the inside wall of the vessel, the stirring rotor being without any rotating shaft at the position of a rotating center axis, wherein the outer diameter of the another support member, positioned at a side adjacent the outlet at the lower part at the other end of the cylindrical vessel, is smaller than the outer diameter of the stirring rotor, wherein the ~~reactor-stirring rotor~~ is provided with scraping vanes on the another support member ~~at the one end of the stirring rotor~~, on the vessel inner end wall-facing side, and wherein the stirring rotor within the vessel is divided into a plurality of stirring blocks having structure based upon the viscosity of the liquid feed.

8.-11. (Cancelled).